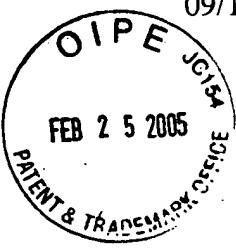


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Group Art Unit: 3763
MIDDLEMAN et al.)
Serial No.: 09/123,614)
Filed: June 28, 1998)
For: DEVICE FOR ANCHORING)
TUBULAR ELEMENT) Pasadena, California

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on October 18, 2004.

Applicants request a one month extension from January 18, 2005 to February 18, 2005 for filing a Response. Applicants hereby submit the following amendments and remarks:

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 ON FEBRUARY 17, 2005

BY: ELAINE PORTER

Elaine Porter